

to point out that there are many people, rural as well as urban, who are not very well pleased with the present system. There were people in my yard all weekend and wherever I went, wherever I stopped people were talking to me about 662. The most prevalent point that was made was that we want to keep what we've got. Well, let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, I also had a group of rural people come to my home on Sunday, I could not give them any assurance, but they are those people who happen to have their land in Class II and Class III districts, and one of them is trying to sell half his quarter section because of an exorbitant tax rate and one which he has been paying now for many, many years. I know there are people who say, well, he got himself into it. I can tell you very frankly that 25, 30 years ago there were various...many people who were trying to make some sincere efforts to resolve the funding problem. We still have that problem, it is still here with us. I know it and I think we have a little bit of reason to be concerned. The Omaha legislators are very concerned about what this is going to do. I want to say this, if it were not for the parochial schools in Omaha they'd have some better understanding of what it cost to educate children. I think that is another disparity which exists in many areas, the fact that some districts benefit mightily because a parochial school is located in their area. You get into western Nebraska, we do not have those...that preponderance of parochial schools, therefore they do not have that kind of tax relief. It is a tax relief that is in existence. It is a very real one. But I can guarantee you that if they did not have those parochial schools that they have in Omaha, there would be a considerably greater understanding of the disparity problem that exists today in rural Nebraska. I would like to suggest that this amendment is not the answer. But I do believe that it is possible to create an amendment that says emphatically that one-third of the cost for support of schools shall be from property, no more than that, and the balance shall be from sales and income taxes.

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR SCHMIT: If that kind of amendment can be adopted, and if in fact we do not, as a Legislature, appropriate the funds to take care of that, and 662 does not become effective, then I think you are going to see some incentive to work together that you have not seen before. I do not